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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
H232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear House and Senate Leadership:

As you begin the process of reconciling the House and Senate versions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, we respectfully request that you fully fund proposals and adopt language that promote investment in America's green economic recovery.

If funded fully and properly, H.R. 1 will provide substantial incentives for investment in renewable energy, weatherize over two million homes, and establish competitive grants for state and local clean energy programs across the country.

These types of investment will deliver tremendous value to the American taxpayer when it comes to job creation, long-term economic strength, and the parallel objective of energy security and independence. According to an analysis by Environment America, this legislation has the potential to create 1.5 million jobs and reduce our global warming emissions by 6 percent.

The version of the stimulus which passed the Senate differs from the House version in several key areas. In the final version of the bill, to maximize pollution reduction, the development of energy efficient technologies, and job creation, we urge you to support:

Helping low and moderate income households save energy by prioritizing the Weatherization Assistance Program. The \$6.2 billion in the House bill would

ensure that we meet or exceed President Obama's goal of weatherizing 2 million homes. It would directly put 32,000 people to work saving energy and reducing pollution and create thousands more jobs in the service and supply sectors.

Increasing Funding for Public Transit: In order to reduce global warming, limit our dependence on oil and create more jobs, we must shift the balance towards smarter transportation options with increased investment in public transit. The House bill includes a \$12 billion investment that would fund badly needed improvements for our nation's transit systems, as well as enable mass transportation networks to expand capacity to meet rapidly growing demand. The House also includes \$1.1 billion to improve intercity and Amtrak rail systems. Funding transit and rail at the levels set by the House will create or preserve more than 360,000 quality jobs and reduce oil consumption by more than 12 million barrels of oil per year.

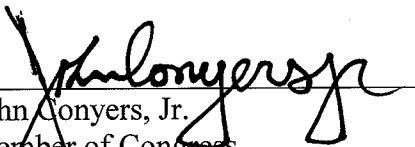
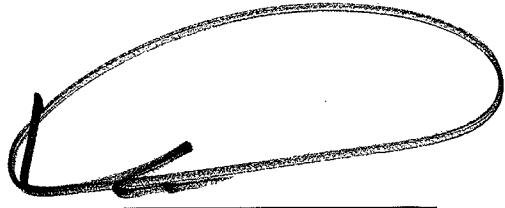
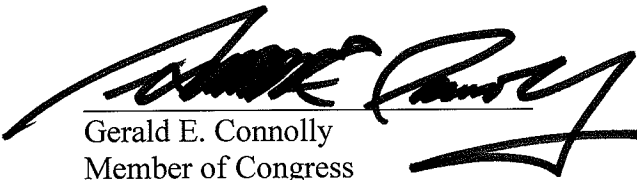
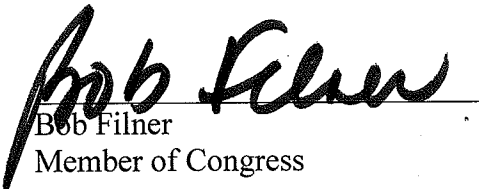
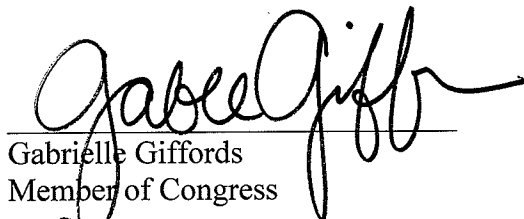
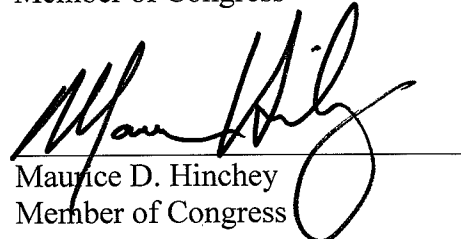
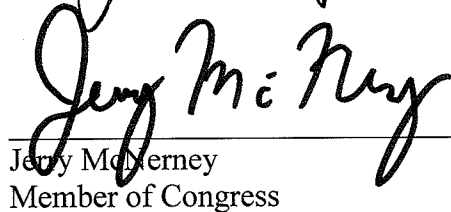

Fixing the Renewable Energy Incentives: We urge you to adopt the House language that would make clean energy tax incentives "recession proof." During the current economic recession, renewable energy production and investment tax credits no longer provide an incentive for companies to develop renewable energy technologies. Without any profits, clean energy companies will not benefit from tax cuts premised on the existence of tax liability. The House version responds to this new economic reality by creating a temporary DOE grant program to allow developers to monetize their tax credits. If included in the final package, this House provision will ensure that many wind and solar projects already planned will continue despite the recession, thus helping reduce global warming pollution by 17.8 million tons and protect 254,000 current or new jobs.

Enacting the Renewable Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit: One of the success stories of the growing renewable energy industry is an increase in local manufacturing of renewable energy technologies. The Senate Finance committee included a well constructed manufacturing tax credit that will incentivize the construction of, or conversion to, renewable energy manufacturing facilities. The House has no similar provision.

Give existing state programs the resources they need to help citizens and business save energy: The final bill should include no less than the \$3.4 billion contained in the House Bill for the State Energy Program (SEP), which assists state energy offices in delivering critical energy programs. A recent survey of state energy offices estimates that there are over \$8 billion in energy programs ready to be implemented.

We urge you to ensure that the final version of H.R. 1 incorporates the critical priorities mentioned above. We must continue the progress we have made with bold investments in clean energy and energy efficiency if we hope to curb global warming and create good jobs across the country.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress
David Wu
Member of Congress
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress
Bob Filner
Member of Congress
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress
Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Lipinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "L".

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress